

GAIDEN 6: Durarara!! x √20: A Sudden Coming of Age Ceremony

 mizaya.tumblr.com/post/95319511239/gaiden-6-durarara-x-20-a-sudden-coming-of-age

i had a bit of free time today and decided to translate a gaiden from the new durarara!! gaiden collection for something a bit different

this is gaiden #6: durarara!! x √20: a sudden coming of age ceremony and features the coming of age ceremony of shizuo, izaya, shinra, and kadota

i will now resume the translations of volume 11, 12, and 13 and expect to post a lot of translations in the near future, but for now, enjoy this gaiden (●∀`●)

Durarara!! x √20: A Sudden Coming of Age Ceremony

Some year, some month Some place in Ikebukuro

“Congratulations! It’s the twenty year anniversary of Dengeki Bunko!”

“Yay!”

Karisawa gives a round of applause at Yumasaki’s comments that he shouted out suddenly.

While their voices and the sound of clapping hands echoed in the van, Kadota was in the drivers seat facing Togusa without showing any facial expression and asked the two behind him.

“.....Hey, what happened all of a sudden?”

“What do you mean by all of a sudden! Finally, this year is the twentieth anniversary of Dengeki Bunko!”

“The plan has progressed since twenty years ago!”

“Wait... Twenty year anniversary... Didn’t you say something like that last year too?”

Karisawa replies to Kadota who frowns.

“No, no, Dotachin! The one we did last year was Dengeki’s Sensational Twenty Year Festival. This year is the twentieth anniversary of the Dengeki ‘Bunko!’”

“....Oh, I see?”

“It was twenty one years ago when the Dengeki brand was founded along with Mediaworks! Dengeki Bunko was born in July of the following year!”

“That’s right, since then they have lined up popular works such as ‘Christania’ and ‘Gokudo-kun Manyuki Gaiden!’”

Kadota tilts his head at Yumasaki’s explanation.

“....Why is it ‘gaiden’ since it’s a lineup for the new magazine?”

“Ehh!? Do I have to explain that!?”

“It will take long?”

“Never mind then.”

After he hurriedly stopped him from explaining, Kadota changed the subject.

“Well, anyway, it’s a great thing that they’ve been in business for twenty years. If we were to compare it to a human, it would be time for their coming of age ceremony.”

“Yeah, yeah, that’s why we came all the way to Sunshine to see the exhibition of ‘Big Dengeki Bunko’ that we can say is like a coming of age ceremony for Dengeki Bunko!”

“Wh....”

Togusa opened his eyes widely in surprise to his sudden remarks.

“I was wondering why you guys asked me to drive suddenly....”

Karisawa and Yumasaki ignored Togusa who frowned and started to have a conversation pleasantly.

“The next surprise coming of age ceremony will be the autumn event—“

“We better start saving up money now to buy goods.”

“But twenty years flies by very quickly. Wow, it was twenty years ago. I was a still kid that might not be able to read manga.”

After they had such conversation exchanges for a while, Karisawa asks Togusa.

“By the way, what was it like, Dotachin? Your coming of age ceremony.”

“Oh.... mine?”

As soon as he said that, Kadota’s face became darker for some reason.

“Well... How can I say.... it was a coming of age ceremony I’ll remember for the rest of my life for sure....”

The people in the van wonder about his somehow ambiguous reply.

They all look at him and Kadota started to feel awkward by not telling them the story just like that and started to talk about what happened in those days.

“Well.... My coming of age was....”

“That means Shizuo and Izaya had a coming of age ceremony the same year right...?”

♂ ♀

A few years ago January

The coming of age ceremony of the year in Toshima Ward was filled with an unfavourable atmosphere before it begun.

Heiwajima Shizuo, 19 years old.

Orihara Izaya, 20 years old.

It was the year that they all were having a coming of age ceremony, including Shizuo who was waiting for his birthday on January 28th.

Of course the chances were low that those two are going to participate in the event called a coming of age ceremony together.

However, although it's a slim chance, it was a fact that there is a possibility that those two would gather in the same place.

Many of the graduates from Raijin High School shiver when they remember those days and some of the former delinquent boys ended up not showing up at the coming of age ceremony out of fear of Shizuo.

And then one of the graduates from Raijin High School who does not sense such an atmosphere makes a phone call to one of his few friends while smiling.

"Hey Shizuo-kun, what are you planning to wear to tomorrow's coming of age ceremony event?"

Heiwajima Shizuo, who was on the other side of the phone, answered Kishitani Shinra's question in an unfriendly tone.

"Ah? I'm not planning to go."

"Don't say such a lonely thing. Don't you have enough time since you got fired again? This will be a good chance for you to realize that you're grown up and change to a human from a beast."

"Yeah, all right. Tomorrow I'll go to beat you."

"Anyway, how about you, Shizuo? Are you going to wear a formal hakama? Or a suit?"

Shinra is casually making fun of Shizuo; maybe it's because they are talking over the phone.

It seems like he's not thinking that he might be beaten next time or tomorrow even a bit.

"Well, see you in front of the art theatre at the opening hours tomorrow."

"Hey, wait, you! What are you talking about..."

Shinra hung up the phone without letting Shizuo finish his words and called another number.

"Hey, Orihara-kun. How are you?"

"I was fine until three seconds ago."

"Stop that, it sounds like you were fine until I called you."

"I thought I expressed my sarcasm straight-forwardly, not in a roundabout way."

In response to Izaya's voice that he heard from the other side of the phone, Shinra asks a question while putting a fresh smile on his face.

"Well, what are you planning to wear tomorrow? A formal hakama? A suit? Or full armor?"

"So you're not listening to me?"

"I ignored you after I heard you. That's what you often do."

Shinra said so without feeling sorry and kept talking.

"Well, see you in front of the art theatre at the opening hours tomorrow!"

“Well well, I didn’t say I’m going——“

So again he hung up the phone without hearing his reply and Shinra talked to his roommate who was next to him.

“Well, what do you think, Celty? Which do you think is better to wear, the formal hakama or a tuxedo? Oh, don’t you think it’s kind of nice to attend in this white lab coat?”

Then the roommate slowly lifted up her body and typed words onto her PDA calmly.

“It doesn’t matter.”

“Thanks! For saying I will look good in anything! But I think you would look good with many more types of clothes than I do, you know?”

“Where did that come from?”

Although the roommate types words like she was fed up, she didn’t sigh.

Because the lips themselves to sigh with did not exist.

The roommate—— Celty Sturluson is not a human.

She’s a type of fairy that resides from Scotland to Ireland commonly called a “Dullahan”—— the existence that visits houses and tells the time of one’s death.

(Omitted.)

She, whose “head” was stolen in her own home country, is lacking memory about her own existence.

In order to get “them” back, she followed the sign of her own neck and came to this Ikebukuro.

She has been roaming around in this city for more than fifteen years with the headless horse as her bike.

She modified her armor to a rider’s suit.

However, in the end, she can neither get any lead about her head and she is staying in Kishitani Shinra’s house.

Although later on they will both love each other, at this point, Shinra was having a complete one sided love and Celty was not able to clearly understand the emotions that arose in her heart.

Yet she had confidence in herself that she had become able to understand the psychology of humans to some extent
——

But she cannot understand the actions Shinra did over the phone.

“What were your phone calls about now?”

“Eh? I just asked Shizuo and Izaya about tomorrow’s coming of age ceremony, right?”

“Even if they planned to come, if you hang up the phone that quickly, they might not go, right?”

“But Celty, it’s the opposite. Shizuo and Izaya will unexpectedly come if I don’t let them say anything like that, you know? For Shizuo, to try to beat me and for Orihara-kun, to say mean things to me.”

She heard Shinra’s explanation and Celty was about to be convinced “that is how it is”.

But she imagined the result and asked him again.

“Wait wait, that means if those two show up tomorrow, they will bump into each other.”

“Yeah, that’s right?”

Celty pretend to tilt her head despite not having one at Shinra who answered simply.

“You just said that’s right...”

“Listen up, Celty. Those two are also already twenty years old, right? Twenty years old. If they were still in the aggressive school kid phase, it’s understandable, but they are both adults so they wouldn’t fight from just seeing each other.”

Shinra kept talking, trying to make himself sound like an adult while his eyes sparkled.

“So I want those two to make up during this occasion. Well, don’t you think I’m more like an adult trying to be an mediator between people?”

“Oh, I guess....”

Celty cannot deny his idea obviously in front of Shinra, who is full of confidence.

Human beings might grow up when they have a coming of age ceremony.

In other words, the people who just became adults who we see acting violent on TV are like that after they have grown up, right?

They were worse before and these people survived with a chainsaw in their hands, depriving water and food from travelers?

Celty, who considered that possibility, decided to just quietly watch what Shinra would do, believing in the possibility of humans.

Of course that was a huge mistake.

♂ ♀

The next day Ikebukuro At Tokyo Art Theatre

“Then following the greetings from the head of the ward, let me introduce a special guest to you. We will have a greeting from the German fighter, Traugott Geissendorfer, who is visiting Japan to defend his title as the champion of martial arts, who also belongs to Rakuei Gym in Toshima Ward.”

The big hall of the art theatre is filled with newly grown up people and the atmosphere is very flowery because of the girls’ kimonos.

In such a mood, the fighting champion Traugott Geissendorfer who is a strong, large man and guest speaker, started to give his special speech and at this point the ceremony proceeded on schedule.

“I’m stronger than you—“

The gangster-like new adult who was sitting in the front row said so and threw an empty bottle of beer jokingly——

In the next moment, he cuts the bottle into two pieces with his bare hand while still giving a speech and the atmosphere of the venue freezes.

The man who threw the bottle became sober right away and after that nobody said anything to the guest speaker.

“—Whether you want it or not, you’ll always be faced with challenges. It’s fine to run away; nobody has the right to say you should fight forcefully and get hurt.”

The fighter keeps giving his speech in fluent Japanese as if nothing had happened.

“However, if you just go with the flow, you can barely run away. At least you will be required to have a strong will to decide which direction you will run away in and power to step forward towards that direction. Yes, running away will also require courage.”

After that, it seemed like the speech would proceed quietly—

The occasional vibration or the sound of explosion started to echo from outside of the venue and something like screaming started to be heard.

Then, the next moment—

The door of the venue was broken forcefully and a vending machine flew in from there.

As if it was shot by a catapult with tremendous speed, a few hundred kilograms of iron reached the stage and the new adults that were quiet screamed all together.

However, Traugott inhaled and caught the vending machine that was coming toward him with a roundhouse block arranged in his own style.

The speed of the vending machine was stopped and it fell on the stage as if it were magic.

He looks at the vending machine that is standing like that and Traugott keeps speaking calmly.

“When you’re in front of a vending machine, we humans have to make many choices. What you should drink or whether you should have a drink or not. If you decide to drink, you might see the exact same beverage right next to each other, so you have to decide whether to press the right hand side button or the left hand side button; although it’s such a meaningless choice, humans burn their souls for the actions that they choose—”

Then, this time, something different flew into the venue from the exit door.

It was a new adult wearing glasses and a white lab coat.

“Aaaah—”

That was Kishitani Shinra— the new adult who is flying onto the stage in the same manner as the vending machine while screaming that caught people off guard.

Traugott, as expected, catches him with only his hand and lets him sit down next to the vending machine.

“....Eh? What? Am I alive?”

Shinra who has no injuries at all blinks his eyes and tries to figure out what just happened to him and Traugott, as expected, kept giving his speech.

“From now on, you all will meet lots of people. I want you to nurture the strength to accept someone’s life or the softness to accept everything. The strength of your fist is just one form of human strength. So everyone choose the strength that you should have and brush up on—”

However, Traugott stopped his speech when the screamed from outside got even louder and he bowed towards the new adults in the venue.

“....Excuse me, allow me to choose to stop in the middle of my speech for a while.”

Then he got off of the stage and he jumped out of the hall—— in the direction of the fight with the speed of a sprinter.

What was left there were the dumbfounded new adults.

It is probably some kind of performance.

Although it didn't look like a performance by any means, many people decided to keep themselves calm by thinking that way.

Of course, the people from Raijin High School knew exactly who was behind the scene.

“....they did it, those guys....”

Kadota, who was wearing a formal hakama, looked at Shinra who was sneakily getting up from the stage and muttered with a sigh.

“Well, I thought this would happen....”

♂ ♀

A few years later Ikebukuro On the street

“Then what happened after that?”

Shizuo answers Tom's question calmly, who was listening to the story.

“I was stopped by Traugott and Simon who happened to pass by and meanwhile that flea bastard ran away somewhere.... Without Traugott, the police would have come there but he dealt with it by making it look like a 'performance' for the coming of age ceremony. I don't know how he did it but he did.”

“Oh— I see.”

“It probably was not for me but he was trying not to ruin the reputation of Toshima Ward so he took the blame... He told me at that time, 'Being weak is not a crime. Train yourself to be stronger, young man.'”

“.....Wow, he called you 'weak'.... I think he meant the weakness of your mind but what a great fighter. That's why he deserves to get 'respect' from you.”

Shizuo kept talking to Tom, who was sweating out of fear.

“Yeah, that's how I realized I am a very weak person... The other day I felt like I finally became a little stronger.”

“I demand a correction. Shizuo-senpai is a stronger person than the time this world was created. That's how it is.”

Vorona, who was listening to their conversation from behind, says such things but Shizuo answers while laughing bitterly.

“If I became strong, that's thanks to you and Tom-senpai, Vorona.”

“?”

Vorona frowns.

Tom keeps moving forward to the next place where he will collect debt without daring to say anything while shrugging his shoulders.

Shizuo had a nostalgic feeling about his past while he walked behind Tom and muttered almost as if he were talking to himself.

“Well, when I become a little bit of a better person someday, I want to attend a coming of age ceremony at least once in my life.”

♂ ♀

Somewhere in the city

“Really, I could have sent Shizu-chan to jail for sure if things went on as they were but that fighter named Traugott did something unnecessary.”

Izaya shakes his head as if he’s disappointed while remembering the incident in the past.

His assistant Namie spoke to him.

“At least you did not have the right to participate in the coming of age ceremony from the beginning.”

“So you’re saying I’m not grown up yet?”

“Since you are a child all the time, you keep interfering with the monster Heiwajima Shizuo. It’s the same as kids who play with bee hives.”

Izaya speaks while shrugging his shoulders at Namie who said so in a cold tone of voice.

“I don’t think there is any difference between adults and children. People are kids forever and sometimes kids are more grown up than adults. They are incomplete, that’s what makes them have a complete existence. Humans are like that.”

Then he muttered as if he is talking to himself while putting his usual smile on his face.

“That’s why I love humans.”

♂ ♀

Kawagoe Street Shinra’s apartment

“Well, I still remember the day of my coming of age ceremony even now. If something went wrong, I would have really been dead.”

Celty types words while she was fed up with Shinra who was talking about his past openly.

“I regret it even now that I believed you and didn’t stop you.”

“Of course, humans are things that might not change so easily. It’s actually said that ‘the soul of a child of three is the same at 100’ and ‘what is learnt in the cradle is carried to the tomb.’” *[see translator’s note]*

“Can sparrows live until 100 years old?”

“Eh, that’s the part you point out?”

Celty and him are having the same kind of conversation as usual but then Shinra's father, Kishitani Shingen, who happened to visit their apartment, cut into the conversation.

"Well, nowadays youth are shameful. So the coming of age is in name only, they aren't mature at all inside."

Shinra answers while making a bitter face at his father who is talking to him while wearing a white gas mask.

"Hey, father, you're almost fifty but you aren't mature at all."

"Shinra, you are saying such things to your real father! When I was twenty years old, I was completed as a person already!"

Celty typed words and showed it to Shingen, who was very proud of himself.

"Oh, I see, the map of the finished product was originally wrong."

"Celty-kun, you say such things to your father in law!"

"Moreover, I can't picture you attending a coming of age ceremony normally."

Then Shingen gave a large nod while rubbing the mouth area of his gas mask.

"Certainly, when I was twenty, there was no time for me to attend my coming of age ceremony.... Let me talk about it now. My twenty big secrets from when I was twenty years old!"

"There's no need for that."

Shingen ignores Shinra who declined simply and he starts talking slowly while looking outside of the window.

"That was when I was twenty years old.... When I was twenty, I was still young and that was the time I enjoyed being twenty. I was twenty years old like a twentieth century boy.... Viva la twenty!"

"He started!"

"How many times do you want to emphasize twenty years old?"

Shingen ignores what was pointed out and talked about his past passionately.

"Yes.... I was traveling around the world looking for a new medicine as a member of the research team of the medical department! From the elixir of immortality to a powder that transforms people into werewolves to the wiggling red liquid that is believed to exist in Germany!"

"That doesn't sound like a job for a student researching in a medical department."

"Don't worry about my white lies! You can't be an adult!"

"That's a white lie, huh."

After that, Shingen kept talking for about twenty minutes and Celty and Shinra kept hearing his words without listening while playing cell phone games.

"Then I finally completed the coming of age ceremony in which you have to beat an alien in the remains of the North Pole underground and got this pure white gas mask that is a treasure of the ancient Mayan civilization! But at the same time I realised something! That the chemical smoke and the emission gas that contemporary people created are far more dangerous things to human beings than any poison that ancient civilizations left....!"

Shinra says one phrase to Shingen, who is breathing heavily inside of the gas mask, while still looking at the game.

“Okay okay, you’re great, you’re great.”

“Complimenting without meaning it sometimes hurts people more than insulting them, you know, Shinra!? You... you... better be careful because I will tell a better lie next time! I will show you the ability of adults!”

After she saw that Shingen shouted and left the room while almost crying—— Celty somehow looked lonely and typed words into her PDA.

“Coming of age ceremony.... That’s an event that I won’t get to have.”

“That’s not true.”

“Eh?”

“It’s already been twenty years since you lost your head and were reborn into the new you.... Well, that means it’s been twenty years since you’ve met me.”

Shinra tells Celty while smiling like a kid.

“I guarantee you. Celty, you’re a legitimate adult. You are more human than real humans. You’re such a legitimate adult.”

“Shinra....”

Celty was about to be moved.

Shinra holds Celty’s shoulders.

“So let’s do something that only adults can do.... ow.”

Celty puts her PDA on Shinra who jumped away to the edge of the room when the fan made of her shadows hit him.

“You should become an adult!”

♂ ♀

“Damn, they are thinking that I’m a cab driver for this event....”

Inside of the van that was parked in the parking lot.

Kadota calms down Togusa, who complains.

“Well, that’s okay. It’s only one time in twenty years.”

Then Karisawa rebutted his words.

“What are you talking about, Dotachin? The twenty year anniversary will continue on!”

“Huh?”

Yumasaki shouts at Kadota who frowns.

“Next year will be the twentieth anniversary of the ‘Dengeki Award’! It’s Ookiden! It’s Criss Cross!”

“The year after that is the twentieth anniversary of Dengeki Playstation!”

“Oh, if you can include that, Dengeki PC engine will have its twentieth anniversary next year too....”

“While we’re celebrating, the thirtieth anniversary will come!”

While listening to the two people’s voices that were in high spirits, Togusa leans over the handle while holding his head and muttered.

“You guys... are planning to hang out in my car ten years from now too....?”

Then the city is continuing to run today too.

As if it is celebrating the people who have newly became adults equally.

The end

♂ ♀

translator’s note: the literal translation of this proverb in japanese is ‘a sparrow never forgets how to dance even when they are 100 years old’